

1. A method for authorising access to computer applications using a computer installation which includes a computer station connected to an inter-computer communication network, a read unit in communication with the station, at least one portable object provided with a personalised electronic circuit having first signal transmission and reception means, storage means for access words to computer applications, said access words being kept secret by a read and/or write barrier, said electronic circuit having a memory including at least one readable verification word, the read unit having second signal transmission and reception means for communicating with the portable object when the latter is located within a determined zone, wherein the method includes the steps of:

- a) placing the portable object within the determined zone so that the read unit detects its presence, reads the readable word of the circuit memory and gives the instruction to the station to connect itself automatically to the communication network toward a checking file of a determined server for sending the readable word,
- b) searching the checking file to see whether the readable word is included in a list of authorised words,
- c) only if the readable word has been found in the list, sending from the checking file a password, addressed to storage means to open the read barrier, and
- d) communicating the access words contained in the storage means to the station in order to authorise said applications to be opened.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the storage means for the access words to the applications are included in the memory of the electronic circuit of the portable object.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the storage means for the access words to the applications are included in the determined server.

4. A method according to any of claims 2 and 3, wherein the addresses of the computer applications to be opened using access words are contained in the storage means.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the addresses of the computer applications to be opened using access words are provided to the computer station by the server on the communication network.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the read unit is a peripheral unit connected to the computer station for the supply of electric power and for the mutual transfer of data and/or commands.

5 commands between the unit and the station.

8. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the communication signals between the read unit and the portable object are magnetic or electromagnetic or optical or acoustic signals.

10 transmission and reception means is a transponder having a coil for receiving and transmitting radio-frequency signals for communicating with the read unit.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the electric power supply of the transponder is provided using the radio-frequency signals received from the read unit.

15 amplitude modulated for the transmission of data and/or commands.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the portable object is a watch or a bracelet or a necklace or a ring or a card or a badge.

13. A method according to claims 1, 6 and 7, wherein the read unit is entirely integrated in a mouse pad or a keyboard of the computer station.

20            14. A method according to claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the read unit is integrated in a peripheral case to the work station, the electric cable or the optical fibre being secured to said case.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein an antenna of the second transmission and reception means of the read unit is integrated in a mouse pad or in a keyboard of the computer station connected to the peripheral case.

16. A method according to claim 1, wherein the memory of the electronic circuit includes several readable words which are sent to the checking file, and wherein in step b), two additional verification words are calculated using an algorithm in the checking file one of said words being searched in the checking file in order to know whether it is authorised, said additional verification words being stored on their return in the electronic circuit of the portable object in the readable portion of the memory.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the read unit contains the address of the determined server in a storage module, as well as address initiation software to give the instruction to the work station to connect itself automatically to the checking file of the determined server, as soon as the read unit has detected the portable object.

18. A peripheral read unit intended to be in communication with a computer station, in particular for implementing the method according to claim 1, wherein it includes signal transmission and reception means in order to be able to communicate with a portable object provided with a personalised electronic circuit having other  
5 signal transmission and reception means when the latter is located within a determined zone.

19. A read unit according to claim 18, wherein at least a portion of the read unit is integrated in a case or in a computer keyboard or in a mouse pad.

20. A read unit according to claim 18, wherein it is completely integrated in a  
10 mouse pad or a computer keyboard, and wherein the signal transmission and reception means include an antenna.

21. A device for authorising access to computer applications, in particular for implementing the method according to claim 1, including a portable object provided with a personalised electronic circuit having first signal transmission and reception  
15 means, and a peripheral read unit having second signal transmission and reception means for communicating with the portable object when the latter is located within a determined zone, the read unit being in communication with a computer station.

22. A device according to claim 21, wherein the portable object is a wristwatch, wherein the electronic circuit of the watch is a transponder, and wherein  
20 the read unit is connected by an electric cable or an optical fibre to a corresponding input socket of a computer station for the electric power supply and transfer of data and/or commands between the unit and the station.

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